

July 30, 2002

**Public Notice for 401 Certification and
California Code of Regulations Water Quality Certification**

**West County Trail Construction
WDID No. 1B02103WNSO**

Sonoma County

On June 27, 2002, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the California Department of Transportation (CDOT) requesting Federal Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 401 Certification and California Code of Regulations Water Quality Certification for the construction of a 1.5-kilometer bicycle path along the East side of Highway 116 (116). The application was deemed complete on July 16, 2002. The application covers disturbances to waters of the United States associated with Guerneville Hydrologic Subarea No. 114.11.

The project area is located along 116 between kilometer posts 38.9 and 40.9. The section of 116 within the project area is currently a conventional two-lane highway. The purpose of the project is to close the gap in the 24-kilometer "West County Trail" (Trail) from Santa Rosa to Forestville. Therefore, the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors has requested that CDOT construct approximately 1.1 kilometers of the Trail as part of CDOT's upcoming widening and realignment project along this same stretch of 116. The Trail will be constructed of asphalt on top of imported fill similar to the native soil. A total of approximately 0.036 acres of wetlands located between stations 389+40 to 289+95, and 391+60 to 392+00 will be filled as a result of the construction of the Trail. The Associate Environmental Planner for the project has determined the wetlands to be of low quality.

Mitigation measures for this project include purchase of 0.10 (approximately a 3:1 ratio) acre of wetland creation credits. In addition, erosion control measures will be implemented during construction, and areas vulnerable to erosion will be hydro-seeded as a long-term erosion control measure.

The CDOT, as the lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, has determined that this project qualifies for Categorical Exemption pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act.

In an application dated March 11, 2002, CDOT applied to the Army Corps of Engineers for Nationwide Permit (NWP) No. 14, pursuant to Clean Water Act, Section 404. NWP No. 14 is associated with Linear Transportation Projects. A Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement (1601) from the California Department of Fish and Game is unnecessary for this project, as there is no navigable waterway onsite.

The nearest receiving water is Atascadero Creek, which is a tributary to the Russian River.

Construction is scheduled to begin in April 2003 and last until late summer 2003. Regional Water Board staff is proposing to regulate this project under a conditional water quality certification pursuant to the California Code of Regulations, Title 23, Chapter 28, Sections 3830 to 3869. Comments on this project should be submitted to Mona

Dougherty at doug@rb1.swrcb.ca.gov or (707) 570-3761, within 21 days of the posting of this notice.

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